Loans given under "APNA GHAR" Scheme

717. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have been given loans for constructing houses under the 'Apna Ghar' scheme of the National Housing Bank since its inception, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of the scheme, the procedure to take loan and the rate of interest;

(c) whether the State Governments and Union Territories were asked to furnish their proposals in this regard to the Union Government;

(d) if so, the names of the States and Union Territories which have sent their proposals and the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government have taken any action thereon; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) (a) National Housing Bank (NHB) has reported that it has not launched any scheme known as "Apna Ghar" scheme.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Imports and Exports

718. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the value of imports and exports during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The value of imports and exports during the last three years is as under:

(*Value: Rs. Crores*)

Year	*Imports*	*Exports*
1988-89	28235	20232
1989-90(P)	35412	26781
1990-91(P)	43171	32527

P: Provisional

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta

[*English*]

Over-Invoicing of Machinery by Pepsi Foods Pvt. Ltd.

719. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 113 on February 22, 1991 and state the outcome of the investigations regarding alleged over-invoicing of import of machinery by M/s. Pepsi Foods Private Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): The investigations initiated by the Enforcement Directorate (FERA) regarding alleged over-invoicing of import of machinery by M/s. Pepsi Foods (P) Ltd. are still in progress.

Angamaly-Munnar-Madurai National Highway

720. SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken to repair and Improve the Angamaly-Munnar-

Madurai National Highway in Kerala which is totally in a dilapidated condition; and

(b) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Angamaly is connected to Munnar through N.H. No. 47 upto Cochin and then N.H. 49 which continues upto Madurai. These sections of National Highways are being kept in trafficworthy condition against the available maintenance and repair grant. Further improvements on N.H. 49 will be taken up in a phased manner subject to the completion of surveys and investigations by the State PWD.

Construction of New National Highway from Angamaly to Madurai

721. SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a new National Highway from Angamaly to Madurai via Thekkady through the middle of the backward Idukki District in Kerala;

(b) if so, the time by which the National Highway is likely to be constructed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There has been neither a request from the Kerala Government for inclusion of this road in the National Highway grid during the 8th Five Year Plan, nor has the N.T.P.C. (National Transport Policy Committee) recommended its inclusion in the National Highway network.

Writing-off Agricultural Debts

722. SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW:

SHRI M. BAGA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present position regarding writing off of agricultural debts upto Rs. 10,000/-;

(b) whether there is any proposal to write off the debts of farmers in other banks also which are not within the purview of this decision;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Presumably, the Hon'ble Members are referring to the Agricultural & Rural Debt Relief Scheme (ARDR), 1990 under which debt relief to the extent of Rs. 10,000 per borrower was extended by Government to eligible borrowers including farmers, artisans and weavers in rural areas, with effect from 15th May, 1990. The amount of relief extended by public sector banks, co-operatives and Regional Rural Banks under the Scheme till 1st July, 1991 was Rs. 7434 crores covering about 297.56 lakh beneficiaries.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Bonus Eligibility Ceiling

724. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to raise the ceiling fixed for the eligibility for bonus to its employees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?